

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Robert L. Virta, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist (acting)
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7726, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: rvirta@usgs.gov

Michelle B. Blackwell (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7943
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mblackwell@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in November 2011, on a daily average basis, was 153,000 metric tons (t), 7% greater than that for the prior month and slightly less than that of November 2010. Average daily production in November 2011 was 10,300 t greater than that of October 2011.

Average daily shipments in November 2011 of 167,000 t were 5% more than those of the prior month and 6% greater than those of November 2010. Mine stocks at the end of November 2011 were 406,000 t less than the stocks held on October 31, a 9% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in October 2011 were 420,000 t, with exports being 76% more than imports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1, 2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010:				
November	4,640	44,800	4,720	44,600
December	4,660	49,500	4,600	49,200
2011:				
January	4,100	4,100	3,230	3,230
February	3,920	8,010	699	3,930
March	4,350	12,400	2,070	6,000
April	4,360	16,700	4,870	10,900
May	4,840	21,600	5,120	16,000
June	4,520	26,100	5,280	21,300
July	4,700	30,800	5,860	27,100
August	4,780	35,600	5,460	32,600
September	4,400	40,000	5,630	38,200
October	4,440	44,400	4,910	43,100
November	4,600	49,000	5,010	48,100

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,120	1,100	1,270	1,280	2,000	2,230
Minnesota	3,490	3,540	3,740	3,440	2,250	1,090
Total	4,600	4,640	5,010	4,720	4,250	3,320

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes usable (marketable) material at mines, concentrators, pelletizing plants, and loading docks. Excludes stocks of crude ore at mine and concentrates at agglomerating complexes.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1, 2}

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2010:				
October	1,490	1,350	7	2,850
November	2,620	1,990	10	4,620
December	1,640	1,440	5	3,090
January–December	19,000	17,000	93	36,100
2011:				
January	695	1,060	4	1,760
February	1,220	890	2	2,110
March	1,320	1,600	4	2,930
April	1,070	1,380	6	2,450
May	1,450	1,940	7	3,400
June	1,160	1,650	8	2,820
July	1,290	1,930	4	3,230
August	2,040	1,730	6	3,770
September	1,650	1,610	6	3,260
October	1,390	1,460	6	2,850

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE OF
FURNACE¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Pig iron production, blast furnace		Raw steel production			
	Monthly	Year to date	Basic oxygen furnace		Electric furnace	
			Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010:						
October	2,150	25,100	2,390	23,300	4,160	41,300
November	2,470	27,500	2,220	25,500	3,950	45,300
December	2,340	29,900	2,580	28,100	4,060	49,300
2011:						
January	2,400	2,400	2,680	2,680	4,510	4,510
February	2,490	4,890	2,200	4,880	4,200	8,710
March	2,790	7,680	2,490	7,360	4,580	13,300
April	2,550	10,200	2,300	9,660	4,480	17,800
May	2,870	13,100	2,490	12,100	4,270	22,000
June	2,820	15,900	2,520	14,700	4,420	26,500
July	2,520	18,400	2,750	17,400	4,620	31,100
August	2,610	21,100	3,060	20,500	4,370	35,500
September	2,540	23,600	3,080	23,600	4,150	39,600
October	3,010	26,600	2,630	26,200	4,140	43,800

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2010	2011				
		1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	September	October
Belgium	107	1	2	(3)	(3)	--
Canada	8,110	871	2,180	2,280	515	634
China	725	259	832	707	184	255
Finland	35	--	--	--	--	--
France	236	--	--	296	80	80
Germany	341	--	1	80	--	(3)
Mexico	188	1	1	7	(3)	(3)
Serbia	44	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	5	--	--	(3)	(3)	--
Spain	156	--	159	28	28	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	46	46	--
Other ⁴	11	5	9	5	1	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	854	969
Concentrates	391	64	72	176	65	51
Coarse ores	259	130	597	546	163	147
Fine ores	78	51	55	44	5	11
Pellets	9,220	890	2,460	2,680	620	760
Briquettes	5	(3)	--	(3)	--	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	--	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Roasted pyrites	1	1	(3)	1	1	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	854	969

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes all countries receiving less than 5,000 metric tons in any month during the 2-year period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2011					2010
	October		Year to date			January–October
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Argentina	--	--	74	11,000	149.30	--
Brazil	6	840	158	23,000	145.77	343
Canada	482	73,500	3,520	560,000	158.88	4,130
Chile	--	--	121	19,800	163.59	82
China	--	--	(4)	11	1,830.00	--
Finland	--	--	4	263	65.75	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Germany	(4)	2	(4)	2	1,060.00	(4)
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	3
Mexico	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	102
Norway	--	--	(4)	80	298.88	4
Peru	--	--	14	1,510	107.79	7
Russia	--	--	(4)	3	372.29	606
South Africa	--	--	147	28,800	196.14	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	4
Sweden	--	--	42	8,290	197.45	23
Trinidad and Tobago	8	3,650	8	3,650	455.63	120
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Ukraine	--	--	(4)	4	395.89	95
Venezuela	53	8,930	239	42,800	178.99	169
Total	549	86,900	4,360	701,000	160.92	5,690
Concentrates	112	19,100	590	91,700	155.51	402
Coarse ores	--	--	36	7,410	205.86	36
Fine ores	21	4,640	619	92,200	148.91	416
Pellets	411	62,600	3,060	500,000	163.20	4,830
Briquettes	4	537	12	3,960	329.83	4
Other agglomerates	--	--	34	5,830	171.59	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	263	65.75	(4)
Total	549	86,900	4,360	701,000	160.92	5,690

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 2011^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	6	--	--	--	--	--	6
Canada	58	--	13	411	--	--	482
Germany	(3)	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	8	--	--	--	8
Venezuela	49	--	--	--	4	--	53
Total	112	--	21	411	4	--	549

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2011					2010
	October		Year to date			January–October
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	76
Canada	411	62,600	3,060	500,000	163.20	3,830
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	606
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	120
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	95
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	107
Total	411	62,600	3,060	500,000	163.20	4,830

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1, 2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	October	January–October	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	198	1,290	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	107	477	324
Cleveland, OH (41)	231	1,940	2,470
Columbia-Snake (29)	--	--	21
Detroit, MI (38)	4	16	(3)
El Paso, TX (24)	--	18	35
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	20	76
Laredo, TX (23)	--	1	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)	--
Minneapolis, MN (35)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	8	13	179
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	571	593
New York, NY (10)	--	(3)	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	1	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	1	7
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	4	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	--	--	3
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	5	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	1	--
Tampa, FL (18)	--	10	--
Total	549	4,360	5,690

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	October	January–October	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	170	1,050	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	10	10	30
Cleveland, OH (41)	231	1,940	2,470
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	76
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	120
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	70	162
Total	411	3,060	4,830

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.